

~~TOP SECRET~~

Briefing given by Mr. Allen Dulles at the morning and afternoon meetings of Congressional Leaders with the President on March 7, 1959

1. Ground Forces

Soviet forces in Eastern Germany comprise 315,000 regular troops and 15,000 security forces. These are organized into 20 line divisions in East Germany. In addition, there are two Soviet line divisions located in Western Poland readily available. The GDR ground forces total 75,000 line troops and 45,000 security troops. These are organized into six line divisions, which brings the total divisions available to the Communists, in East Germany and Western Poland to 28.

2. Air Forces

Soviet air forces in East Germany include 464 jet fighters, 90 light bombers, and 289 reconnaissance training and utility aircraft; personnel strength, 30,000. GDR air forces consist of 150 jet fighters and 70 miscellaneous aircraft.

3. Allied Garrisons

Allied garrisons in Berlin comprise some 12,000 personnel, of which 4,000 are U.S.



4. Accesses to Berlin

Accesses to Berlin are maintained by an autobahn which extends 110 miles from Helmstedt to West Berlin, by railroad along the same line, by three air corridors, one of which flies over the autobahn part of the way near Berlin, one comes from Frankfurt, and the other from the North. In addition to these routes, which are supported by agreements, much traffic flows in and out of West Berlin on other roads into East Germany. None of these other roads, however, are supported by international agreement.

5. Civilian Population

All indications are that the GDR government is not supported by the people. If free elections were to be held, 90% of the population would vote against the Communists. This is not quite so high a non-Communist percentage as that shown by Austria, which polled only four percent Communists.

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6. Personalities

The outstanding personalities of East Germany are Grotewohl and Ulbricht. Actually, Grotewohl has very little power. His position corresponds roughly to that of Bulganin in the USSR before Bulganin was deposed and replaced by Khrushchev. The man with the power is Ulbricht, the head of the Communist Party. This man is a hard-core Communist, clever and ruthless. He is held in power by the bayonets of the Soviets and enjoys no popularity whatsoever among the people of East Germany.

7. Trade

Since 1949, Berlin has become an industrial city. Of a total population of 2.2 million, Berlin supports a working force of 880,000. Its main products are electrical goods and electronics. Its main market is still West Germany; and of the motor transportation going between West Germany and East Germany, there are 50 to 100 civilian trucks engaged in commerce for everyone of our military trucks utilized to supply the Berlin garrison. This does not mean that there is no trade being conducted between West Germany and East Germany. On the contrary, there has been an informal barter trade conducted for some time between the FGR and the GDR, which is valued at \$200 million annually each way. Of this, \$45 million are imports by West Berlin from East Germany and \$15 million are West Berlin exports to East Germany.

 

John S. D. Eisenhower